

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement drawing sheet makes changes to Fig. 2 and replaces the original sheet with Fig. 2.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending in this application. Claims 14-19 are withdrawn. By this Amendment, claims 20-22 are added. The abstract, specification and Fig. 2 are amended. No new matter is added.

On page 2, the Office Action objects to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. §1.84(p)(5). Fig. 2 is amended to delete reference number 46, responsive to the objection. Thus, it is respectfully requested the objection be withdrawn.

On pages 3 and 4, the Office Action objects to the abstract and disclosure because of informalities. The disclosure is amended responsive to the objection. Specifically, the abstract is amended to be only one paragraph; spelling errors are corrected; and the trademark included in the disclosure is capitalized. Further, "glossness" is changed to "glossiness" for clarity. Thus, it is respectfully requested the objections be withdrawn.

The amendment to the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 14 is incorporated from paragraph [0017] of the priority document Japanese Patent Application No. 2003-287429, which is expressly incorporated by reference in specification as filed. Because the priority document is expressly incorporated, the amendment does not constitute new matter. Filed herewith is an accurate translation of the paragraph [0017]. A certified copy of Japanese Patent Application No. 2003-287429 was filed on February 3, 2004.

On page 5, the Office Action rejects claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Coleman et al. (Coleman), U.S. Patent No. 5,327,201. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites a method for producing an image-recorded medium on the surface of a transparent substrate, the image-recorded medium comprising a fixed image formed electrographically, and the fixed image being laminated on the image-recorded medium, the method comprising forming toner layers by laminating a plurality of toner layers on the

surface of the substrate electrographically; temporarily fixing the plural toner layers; and laminating the temporarily fixed image with a laminate film.

Coleman does not disclose or suggest temporarily fixing plural toner layers and laminating the temporarily fixed image with a laminate film. The "temporarily fixing" step of claim 1 is defined, for example, in the specification as filed on page 21, line 21 to page 22, line 17. In particular, temporary fixing is conducted on the uppermost layer only to an extent necessary to prevent image slippage. Thus, the claimed temporary fixing does not permanently fuse the image.

Conversely, Coleman only discloses that a toner image is xerographically created by sequentially forming different color toner images on a transparent substrate followed by the use of heat and pressure to permanently fuse (col. 11, lines 39 and 40) the image to the transparent substrate (abstract; col. 6, lines 52-68; col. 10 line 1 to col. 11 line 20; col. 11, lines 30-35; and col. 13, line 52 to col. 14, line 40). Thus, Coleman does not disclose or suggest temporarily fixing plural toner layers, as recited in claim 1. Therefore, Coleman is susceptible to problems such as air bubbles, blisters or voids in the fixed image that can occur when the toner layers are fixed only in a single step at a high temperature, as discussed in Applicants' disclosure at page 9. Because the toner layers in Coleman are not temporarily fixed, the toner layers may not be efficiently degassed at the fixing, and air among the toner layers may be left as air bubbles in the fixed image, generating blisters and voids so that image-recorded medium quality is decreased. Because, Coleman fails to disclose or suggest temporary fixing plural toner layers and laminating the temporarily fixed image with a laminate film, Coleman fails to disclose or suggest all of the features of claim 1. Therefore, it is respectfully requested the rejection be withdrawn.

On pages 6 and 7, the Office Action rejects claims 1-9 and 11-13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) and §102(e) over Iwase et al. (Iwase), U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0043108. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Iwase also fails to disclose or suggest temporarily fixing plural toner layers and laminating the temporarily fixed image with a laminate film, as recited in independent claim 1. Iwase only teaches heat-treating toner layers that have already been fixed in order to melt the toner layers to fill pinholes (defects) formed on the toner image before the heat treatment (paragraph [0054]). Thus, the subsequent heat treatment of Iwase occurs after the toner layers that have already been permanently fixed. As discussed above, the temporarily fixing method of claim 1 occurs before permanent fixing and prevents defects before such defects occur, while Iwase merely remedies defects that have already occurred. Thus, Iwase is also susceptible to the problems discussed above by not temporarily fixing the plural toner layers, as recited in claim 1. Therefore, because Iwase does not disclose or suggest temporarily fixing the plural toner layers, Iwase fails to disclose or suggest all of the features of claim 1.

Independent claim 6, in part, also recites temporarily fixing plural toner layers. The "temporarily fixing" step of claim 6 is defined in the specification as filed on page 23, line 25 to page 24, line 24. The temporarily fixing step in claim 6 is distinguishable over Iwase because the temporary fixing occurs in plural steps at a low temperature, not in a single step at a high temperature. Iwase teaches, in paragraph [0054], a single step. Because the toner layers in Iwase are not temporarily fixed, the toner layers may not be efficiently degassed at the fixing, and air among the toner layers may be left as air bubbles in the fixed image, generating blisters and voids so that image-recorded medium quality is decreased. Thus, Iwase fails to disclose or suggest all of the features of claim 6.

Because claims 2-5 and 7-13 incorporate the features of claims 1 and 6, Iwase fails to disclose or suggest the features of any of these claims at least for the reasons discussed above,

as well as for the additional features found therein. Thus, it is respectfully requested the rejections be withdrawn.

On page 8, the Office Action rejects claims 1, 5, 6, 10, 11 and 13 on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-20 of Koder et al. (Koder), U.S. Patent No. 6,985,691. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants file herewith a Terminal Disclaimer to overcome the rejection. Thus, it is respectfully requested the rejection be withdrawn.


New claims 20-22 are also patentable over the references of record.

Rejoinder of claims 14-19 is respectfully requested upon allowance of independent claims 1 and 6 from which claims 14-19 depend.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-23 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:DRK/smo

Attachments:

Substitute Abstract
Replacement Sheet (1)
Terminal Disclaimer
Amendment Transmittal
Translation of paragraph [0017] of Japanese Patent Application No. 2003-287429
Declaration of accurate translation

Date: May 24, 2006

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